

Haverhill Urban District

IN THE

Administrative County of West Suffolk.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

— **1929** —



To the Chairman and Members
of the
Haverhill Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my
Annual Report for the year 1929 on the Health, Sanitary
Conditions, and Vital Statistics of the Haverhill Urban District.

The Report is drawn up in accordance with the
requirements of the Ministry of Health, as indicated in Circular
1048 of December the 5th, 1929, and is an Ordinary Report.

ARTHUR MORGAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area 2,530 Acres.

Population :

			Total.		Males.		Females.
Census, 1921	...	...	4,083	...	1,878	...	2,205

Estimated Population—

1922	...	4,123	1926	...	4,174
1923	...	4,125	1927	...	4,086
1924	...	4,162	1928	...	4,057
1925	...	4,166	1929	...	4,030

There is no local evidence of any increase in population.

Number of inhabited houses, Census 1921 1,059

Number of families or separate occupiers, Census 1921 1,059

£

Rateable Value at December 31st 13,403

Sum represented by a penny rate (reduced) 49

Rates 16/6

The main industry is the manufacture of ready-made clothing and textile fabrics. Agricultural occupations come next. The town is a centre for villages in the surrounding rural districts, and a market is held weekly. There are no occupations that could be considered dangerous or detrimental to health.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

Births :

						Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	24	25	49
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
			Total	...		24	25	49

Birth Rate per thousand population 12.1

Birth Rate per thousand population (England and Wales) 16.3

Still Births :

						Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
			Total	...		—	1	1

Deaths :

	Male.		Female.		Total.		
	23		18		41		
Death Rate for the district	10.1
Death Rate for England and Wales	13.4
Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth						...	None
Number of deaths of children under one year of age						...	1
Infantile Mortality Rate per thousand births						...	20.4
Infantile Mortality Rate per thousand births (England and Wales)							74
There were no deaths of illegitimate babies.							
Deaths from Measles, all ages	None
Deaths from Whooping Cough, all ages	None
Deaths from Diarrhoea, under two years of age	None

The 41 deaths took place at the following age periods :—

	Male.		Female		Total	
Under 1 year	...	—	...	1	...	1
1 and under 2	...	—	...	—	...	—
2 „ 5	...	1	...	—	...	1
5 „ 15	...	1	...	—	...	1
15 „ 25	...	1	...	1	...	2
25 „ 45	...	4	...	—	...	4
45 „ 55	...	2	...	4	...	6
55 „ 65	...	3	...	1	...	4
65 „ 75	...	4	...	6	...	10
75 and over	...	7	...	5	...	12
	—		—		—	
Totals	23		18		41	

Birth, Death, and Infantile Mortality Rates in past years, as compared with those for England and Wales. The figures in brackets are for England and Wales :—

	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
Birth Rates	... 16.2 (20.6)	16.2 (19.7)	14.9 (18.8)	13.4 (18.3)	11.2 (17.8)	11.5 (16.7)	14.8 (16.7)	12.1 (16.3)
Death Rates	... 14 (12.9)	12.3 (11.6)	8.9 (12.2)	10.3 (12.2)	8.8 (11.6)	13.7 (12.3)	13.8 (11.7)	10.1 (13.4)
Infantile Mortality	119 (77)	59.7 (69)	32.2 (75)	53.6 (75)	42.5 (70)	64 (69)	116 (65)	20.4 (74)

**Table Classifying Deaths according to
Cause and Sex.**

Causes of Death.						Males.	Females.	Totals
Enteric Fever								
Small Pox								
Measles								
Scarlet Fever								
Whooping Cough								
Diphtheria						1	1	2
Influenza... ..								
Encephalitis Lethargica						1		1
Meningococcal Meningitis								
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System						1	2	3
Other Tuberculous Diseases								
Cancer, Malignant Disease						4	2	6
Rheumatic Fever								
Diabetes								
Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.						1	2	3
Heart Disease						4	5	9
Arterio Sclerosis							2	2
Bronchitis								
Pneumonia, all forms						2		2
Other Respiratory Diseases								
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum								
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)								
Appendicitis and Typhlitis								
Cirrhosis of Liver								
Acute and Chronic Nephritis						1		1
Puerperal Sepsis								
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition								
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth... ..							1	1
Suicide								
Other Deaths from Violence						3		3
Other Defined Diseases... ..						5	3	8
Causes Ill-Defined or Unknown								
Totals						23	18	41

Table showing the number of deaths from certain special causes during the last six years as compared with 1928.

	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	Total
Cancer	5	9	1	10	8	6	6	6	51
Tuberculosis (all forms)	2	3	5	5	4	2	4	3	28
Influenza	3	1		1		2	1		8
Pneumonia (all forms)	4	1			2	4	5	2	18
Measles			1						1
Whooping Cough	4				1				5
Scarlet Fever									
Diphtheria								2	2
Totals	18	14	7	16	15	14	16	13	113

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The Urban District Council maintains an Isolation Hospital but no permanent Staff. The practice is for Practitioners to attend their own cases at the hospital and Nurses are engaged as and when required. About 10 beds are available on the basis of 12 feet of wall space, 144 feet of floor space and 2,000 cubic feet of air space to each bed. A Thresh steam disinfecter and a horse ambulance are provided. Eleven cases of scarlet fever have been admitted during the year and the total expenditure in connection with the hospital was £250. There are no special arrangements for the professional nursing of cases of infectious diseases in the home.

Small Pox :

The County Council arrange for the isolation of cases of this disease.

The Midwives Act, Maternity and Child Welfare, Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases Schemes are all administered by the County Council. Monthly clinics are held in the town in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare and there are also orthopædic clinics at the West Suffolk General Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds. Six ordinary beds and two isolation beds are provided at this institution for obstetric cases requiring hospital treatment.

Tuberculosis :

Cases of pulmonary tuberculosis receive sanatorium treatment at the County Sanatorium, Bury St. Edmunds. Non pulmonary cases are admitted to one or other of the general hospitals available.

The general hospitals available are the West Suffolk General Hospital at Bury St. Edmunds and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. The number of patients receiving treatment at the latter institution during the last five years is as follows :—

1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
In-patients.	In-patients.	In-patients.	In-patients.	In-patients.
63	57	50	50	65
				Out-patients.
				111

There is no institutional provision in the district for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children.

Ambulance Facilities :

- (1) A horse ambulance maintained by the Urban Council for the removal of cases of infectious disease.
- (2) A motor ambulance for the transport of accident cases etc., is provided by public subscription. The subscription is 1s. per annum, and 8d. per mile is charged to non-subscribers. During the last four years 154 journeys were made, these included 68 for patients living outside the area. 1926, 43; 1927, 32; 1928, 31; 1929, 48.

Nursing in the Home: There is one District Nurse Midwife and one Private Midwife practising in the area.

Public Health Officers :

- (1) A whole time official who holds the appointment of Sanitary Inspector and Highway Surveyor.
- (2) A whole time Medical Officer of Health who also acts for other districts.

Laboratory Work :

The Council is not an authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts and the only analyses usually required are those in connection with water supplies. Samples are sent to the Counties Public Health Laboratory, 91 Queen Victoria Street, London.

Legislation in Force :

- | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|--------------|
| (1) | The Public Health Amendment Act, 1890 | ... | ... | adopted 1891 |
| (2) | The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890 | ... | .. | 1891 |
| (3) | The Private Streets Works Act, 1892 | ... | .. | 1893 |

Bye-laws with respect to slaughterhouses, new streets, buildings, etc., are in operation.

There are no Local Acts in force.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply :

The town has an excellent supply of water of a high degree of purity from the waterworks. Unfortunately the water is very hard (total hardness 42 degrees, 15 permanent, 27 temporary). While not affecting its purity in any way this amount of hardness is undesirable both from a domestic and commercial point of view. The question of installing a softening plant has received consideration, but, for various reasons, has been left in abeyance.

Owing to the exceptionally dry summer it was deemed advisable to augment the present supply by sinking an additional borehole. The original supply is obtained from a well 103 feet deep with a 9 inch borehole 150 feet deep sunk from the bottom of the well. There are two headings in the chalk running east and west from the bottom of the well. Each heading is 25 feet long by 6 feet high by 6 feet wide. The borehole was sunk through the east heading to a depth of 350 feet the bottom level of the bore being 72 feet below O.D. These measures have increased the available supply by nearly 50 per. cent. Analyses shewed that there is little or no change in the character of the water. The total cost of the work was £450.

	Average daily quantity of water consumed.				Quantity of water pumped	
1926	75,431 gals.	...	27,532,400 gals.
1927	76,153 „	...	27,796,000 „
1928	80,318 „	...	29,396,500 „
1929	76,192 „	...	27,810,000 „

Variations in height of water in the well :—

1926	{	Maximum level, March	...	211.20ft. above	Ordinance	Datum.
	{	Minimum level, Oct.	...	208.00ft.	„	„
1927	{	Maximum level, May	...	210.60ft.	„	„
	{	Minimum level, Sept.	..	203.60ft.	„	„
1928	{	Maximum level, March	...	213.40ft.	„	„
	{	Minimum level, Oct.	...	201.70ft.	„	„
1929	{	Maximum level, March	...	208.20ft.	„	„
	{	Minimum level, Oct.	...	199.75ft.	„	„

Number of dwelling-houses connected with the mains	...	...	1081
Length of mains	...	...	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles
Number of houses connected to mains during the year	...	...	15
Number of houses not connected to mains :—			
	(a)	Within reach	26
	(b)	Not within reach	41

Rainfall registered by rain gauge at the Waterworks :—

Year	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	
1926	1.87	2.48	0.11	2.55	2.26	2.51	
	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	3.40	1.50	1.87	2.49	3.54	0.48	25.16
1927	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	
	1.40	2.73	1.71	2.30	0.61	2.96	
	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	2.36	2.96	4.46	1.42	2.84	1.86	27.61
1928	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	
	2.88	1.20	1.30	1.65	1.88	2.35	
	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	1.70	2.26	0.64	2.82	1.58	2.63	22.89
1929	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	
	1.35	0.76	0.09	1.69	1.29	0.89	
	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	2.44	1.42	0.38	3.51	4.27	4.15	22.24

During 1929 snow or rain was recorded on 126 days. The greatest rainfall was for the 24 hours ending 9 a.m. on July 5th, when 0.77 inches were registered.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There have been no new developments in connection with sewerage during the year. The total annual cost out of revenue of sewage disposal was £404. The usual crop of sugar beet was grown at the sewage works and realised £90. Incidentally, one of the gas engines at the sewage farm was replaced by a crude oil engine at a cost of £145. The saving in fuel amounts to approximately £50 per annum.

	Year—	1926	1927	1928	1929
Number of dwelling-houses connected with sewers	...	1065	1081	1085	1085
Number of dwelling-houses with flushing cisterns	...	232	319	332	343
Number of dwelling-houses with waste water flushing	...	814	754	753	741
Number of dwelling-houses not connected to sewers	...	66	65	65	63
Number of privies	...	14	14	14	12
Number of pail closets	...	36	36	36	36
Number of conversions from waste water flushing to flushing cisterns	...	—	52	7	9

Scavenging.

Collections are made weekly, the refuse being removed in a covered cart and disposed of in a disused brickyard. About 1000 premises are dealt with and the annual cost is in the neighbourhood of £140.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	1607
Dwelling-houses—Overcrowding	...	..	...	...	...	2	
Structural defects	...	...	...	...	...	41	
Other causes	...	...	...	...	...	8	—51
Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Schools...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Dairies and cowsheds	...	...	...	..	...	..	43
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	137
Butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
General inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	154
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	232
Sundry visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	803
Nuisances or defects found	...	42					
„ „ „ remedied	...	39					
Number of notices served during the year	...	...	46				
(a) Informal written	...	46	Complied with	...	39		
(b) Statutory	...	Nil	Outstanding	...	7		

Disinfection.

Number of premises disinfected after infectious disease	...	...	25
Number of premises disinfected for other reasons	...	...	4
Bedding steam disinfected	...	...	26

Premises and occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations.

There are no offensive trades, houses let in lodgings, underground sleeping rooms, etc., in the district.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.—There are no premises in the district where rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

HOUSING.

No houses have been built by the Council during the year, but $6\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land, on the South side of the Recreation Ground, has been purchased at a cost of £650, and a scheme for the construction of a road and 23 non-parlour houses has been approved. The total estimated cost, including land and road is £10,100. All the houses will have 3 bedrooms and an average floor area of 754 superficial feet.

Number of new houses erected during the year :

(a)	Total (including numbers given separately under b)	...	3
(b)	With state assistance under the Housing Acts:		
	(1) By the Local Authority	... ..	—
	(2) By other bodies or persons	... ..	2

I. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.—

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	109
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	... ..	60
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	2
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... ..	2 ₈

II. REMEDY of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	25
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III. ACTION under Statutory Powers during the year :—

A. *Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.*

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	... ..	6
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—		
	(a) by owners	... ..	5
	(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	... ..	—
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close	... ..	—

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	10
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
	(a) by owners	... ..	9
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	... ..	—

C. *Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.*

(1)	Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	...	4
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	4
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	—
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	3
(5)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	3

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply :

Wholesale purveyors	...	..	...	...	None
Retail purveyors...	..	...	...	...	4
Retail purveyors who are not cowkeepers	...				1
					—
					5

The total number of cows kept is about 17. The cowsheds and premises are all of fairly good construction and a reasonable standard of cleanliness is maintained. No notices have been served during the year.

Meat Supply :

Number of registered slaughterhouses	...	...	2
Number of licensed slaughterhouses	...	...	3

No alterations have been made to any of these premises during the year. They are kept in a satisfactory condition and refuse is disposed of regularly. The quality of meat sold in the district is good and none was condemned as unfit for human food during the year.

Thirty-eight notices were received relating to slaughtering out of the specified times.

Butchers' Shops.

There are six shops where meat is retailed. Three sell fresh meat, two frozen meat only, and one deals in both. They are all kept in a cleanly condition, and reasonable precautions are adopted to keep the meat free from contamination by dust and dirt. There are no stalls in the district from which meat is sold.

Bakehouses :

The six bakehouses are all kept in a satisfactory condition, and are suitable for the purpose. Water supply and drainage are adequate, and the requirements of Sec. 99 of the Factories and Workshops Act relating to limewashing have been complied with.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The only occurrence of any note was a small outbreak of scarlet fever. Most of the cases were of the mild type that appears to predominate at the present time. The very mildness of the ailment renders an outbreak more difficult to deal with as the nature of the illness is not always recognised by parents in its early stages. Desquamation is often the first symptom to attract attention.

Number of cases of the notifiable infectious diseases during the last five years :—

	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	Totals
Diphtheria	—	—	3	1	1	5
Scarlet Fever	1	—	7	—	23	31
Erysipelas	—	1	1	2	2	6
Pneumonia	1	1	2	6	1	11
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	1	—	1	2
	2	2	14	9	28	55
Notifiable locally—Chicken Pox	5	19	26	40	1	91

Twelve of the cases of scarlet fever were isolated at home. The remainder were removed to the local isolation hospital.

It will be noted that there were two deaths from diphtheria, but only one case notified. The second death took place outside the district, and the person's residence being normally in Haverhill, the death is included amongst those for the district.

Disinfection.

Infected premises are disinfected by the formalin spray. The thresh steam disinfector at the isolation hospital is used for disinfecting infected clothing and bedding. There are no special arrangements for the disinfection of verminous persons and their belongings.

bacteriological Examinations.

These are made either at the County Laboratory, Bury St. Edmund's, or at the Bacteriological Laboratory, Green Street, Cambridge. Fifteen swabs were examined at the latter institution for the presence of diphtheria bacilli.

Diphtheria Antitoxin.

Antitoxin is obtained by practitioners as and when required, and, in suitable cases, paid for by the District Council.

Public Health (Smallpox) Regulations, 1917.

No primary or re-vaccinations were performed during the year by your Medical Officer of Health.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

There has been no incidence of these diseases that calls for special comment, except that there were a number of cases of measles during the month of March. Notifications were received from schools relating to 142 children excluded for various reasons. More than half of these were on account of measles. The total is not above the average as compared with past years.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	AT AGES—YEARS.											Admitted Hospital.	Deaths.
		--1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—	
Scarlet Fever	23			1	1		8	9	2	1	1		11	—
Diphtheria	1				1								—	2
Erysipelas	2											2	—	—
Pneumonia	1									1			—	2*
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	1											1	—	1
Notifiable locally— Chicken Pox	1							1					—	—
Totals	29			1	2		8	10	2	2	1	3	11	5

* *All Forms.*

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5								
10								
15								
20								
25					1			
35								
45		1				2		
55								
65 and upwards								
Totals ..		1			1	2		

There were no deaths of non-notified cases.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

These Regulations deal with the employment of tuberculous persons in the milk trade. No action has been required.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

This section relates to the compulsory removal and detention in an institution of persons suffering from tuberculosis and who are in an infectious condition. No action has been necessary.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Number of Factories, 15—Builders 1, Gasworks 1, Laundry 1, Printing Works 2, Foundries 2, Millers 2, Baker 1, Ropeworks 1, Textile 2, Saw Mills 1, Motor Engineers 1.

Workshops on the Register at the end of the year, 36—Builders 2, Bootmakers 5, Basket Makers 2, Bakers 5, Bottling Stores 1, Cycle Repairers 3, Dressmakers 2, Milliners 2, Plumbers 2, Sadlers 2, Silkweavers 2, Shoeing Smiths 2, Stonemasons 2, Tailors 3, Motor Engineers 1.

					Inspections	Notices
Workshops and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	64	2
Factories	...	...	...	...	75	1
Total					139	3

Notices complied with, 3.

Outworkers Lists:

Received from employers ... 4.

Outworkers, actual number ... 102.

Decrease in numbers since 1911—590.

Infected premises, Nil.

Nature of outwork—Wearing apparel.

ARTHUR MORGAN, M.A., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

